

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2001

Contact: Kevin O'Connell
202-225-6335

HINCHEY CALLS FOR QUICK ACTION ON AIRLINE SECURITY BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) joined today with House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt and members of the Democratic Caucus at a press conference to unveil a bill to strengthen security on every airplane and in every airport.

"The American people deserve to know that they are safe when they are at our airports or in the air," said Hinchey. "They deserve to have well-trained, professional, federal law enforcement officers at every airport and a security system that is the best in the world."

The Transportation Security Enhancement Act will:

- Put federal law enforcement officers in charge of baggage screening at the nation's airports
- Create the Transportation Security Administration within the US Department of Transportation, which would be responsible for all aviation security except the air marshal program, which remains with the FAA
- Impose a one-way fee of \$2.50 per passenger to pay for screeners at all checkpoints
- Authorize deployment of Federal Air Marshals on domestic and international flights
- Enhance security through the screening of all people, vehicles and equipment that enter secured areas at airport; require background checks for all current airline, airport and screening personnel; and modify cabin, cockpit and transponder security, while giving crews the ability to discreetly notify their colleagues of security breaches.

"It is imperative that we move quickly and effectively to put federal law enforcement officers in charge of screening at our nation's airports," Hinchey added. "I support these common-sense measures because I believe that they will truly provide the best possible security and safety for the people of this country."